

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EPA-01 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06
SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 PRS-01 PA-01 /098 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:BLONG:DR
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DR. KING
EPA - J. THOMPSON (DRAFT)
EA/J - D. CHRISTENSON
-----084934 250657Z /14
R 250046Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS) BY
JAPAN

REFERENCES: (1) TOKYO 8955; (2) STATE 121594

1. EPA INFORMS THAT IT HAS NEITHER CONSULTED WITH
JAPANESE OFFICIALS (GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE) ON OCEAN COM-
BUSTION OF 6,600 TONS OF PCBS AS REPORTED BY JAPANESE
PRESS (REF. 1), NOR BEEN ASKED FOR ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE ON
THIS SPECIFIC ACTIVITY.

2. EPA MARINE PROTECTION BRANCH HAS, OVER PAST SEVERAL
YEARS, HAD INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS ON
GENERAL SUBJECT OF OCEAN INCINERATION OF ORGANOCHLORIDE
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COMPOUNDS, AND HAS PROVIDED WRITTEN MATERIAL ON CONTINUING
BASIS. IT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN CONTACTED RE SUBJECT
PCB INCINERATION.

3. EPA HAS HAD NO REPEAT NO DIRECT EXPERIENCE WITH PCB
COMBUSTION AT SEA, ONLY ON LAND WHERE IT HAS CARRIED OUT
EXPERIMENTAL TESTING AND MONITORING. IT HAS, OVER A THREE

YEAR PERIOD, CARRIED OUT SMOKE STACK TESTING AND AIR AND WATER SAMPLING IN CONNECTION WITH OCEAN-BASED INCINERATION OF PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIAL WASTES (MIXTURES OF ORGANO-

CHLORIDE COMPOUNDS) IN GULF OF MEXICO. MEASUREMENTS INDICATED LITTLE RELEASE OF POTENTIALLY TOXIC RESIDUES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPEARED VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.

4. NOTEWORTHY THAT GULF OF MEXICO COMBUSTION (AND EPA MONITORING) WAS CARRIED OUT ON SAME DUTCH-OPERATED SHIP, VOLCANUS, THAT APPARENTLY WOULD BE USED FOR INCINERATION OF JAPANESE PCBS. SHIP SCHEDULED TO PROCEED JAPAN FOLLOWING FORTHCOMING AND MUCH-PUBLICIZED COMBUSTION OF "HERBICIDE ORANGE" OFF JOHNSTON ISLAND.

5. ALTHOUGH CHEMISTRY OF GULF OF MEXICO WASTES DIFFERS, EPA BELIEVES PCB COMBUSTION BY VOLCANUS WOULD BE VIRTUALLY COMPLETE AND NON-HAZARDOUS, WITH LITTLE POTENTIALLY HARMFUL RESIDUES ENTERING OCEAN OR ATMOSPHERE.

6. INFORMATION IN PARAS. 1-3 ABOVE MAY BE USED AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO ANY ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN, OR APPROVAL OF, OCEAN INCINERATION OF JAPANESE PCBS. EPA VIEWS ON POTENTIAL IMPACT OF PCB COMBUSTION (PARA. 5) SHOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, HOWEVER, AS THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE ON WHICH TO BASE FIRM CONCLUSION. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO BE KEPT CLOSELY INFORMED OF EVENTS.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS, TOXINS & ANTITOXINS, CHEMICALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE148587
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BLONG:DR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770227-1175
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770618/aaaaapos.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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Message ID: bed47e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 8955, 77 STATE 121594
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2031349
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISPOSAL OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS) BY JAPAN
TAGS: SENV, ECEM, JA, US
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bed47e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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